



Mobile Feeding Model

A feeding site is defined as a physical location at which a sponsor provides food services for children and where children consume meals in a supervised setting. Traditionally, sites are located at schools, parks, churches, community buildings, or other similar places. But serving meals in this setting is not always feasible.

In rural areas, children may live in isolated locations where access to meal service sites operated by schools, parks and recreation departments, and private nonprofit organizations is often limited. In urban areas, violence and traffic safety are examples of issues that may limit viable site location options.

Instead of requiring children to travel to meal service sites in areas that are far or unfavorable for congregate feeding, sponsors have the option to bring the meals to the children. This is known as the “mobile feeding model.” The mobile feeding provides flexibility so sponsors can serve children who do not have access to traditional sites.

Go to [Resources](#).

How it Works

A sponsor delivers meals to an area, using a route with stops at approved sites in the community. Each site is approved as an area-eligible open site. The meal service takes place on approved days and the sponsor serves reimbursable meals during approved service times. The meal service is supervised and all meals are consumed at the site, on the bus or near the drop-off location.

For more information on the operating requirements, check out the USDA policy guidance on mobile feeding options for summer meal programs:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/SP02_SFSP02-2014os.pdf





Spotlight on Alabama

In 2014, Alabama rolled out its first ever “Superfood Express,” a mobile feeding bus developed by Mobile County Public Schools (MCPSS). The Superfood Express, a surplus school bus outfitted with warmers, coolers, tables, lights, video and audio system, and canopy, was designed to provide children with a fun Summer Food Service Program experience. MCPSS served meals to nearly 98,000 children in rural areas in its first year!

- *Mobile County Summer Feeding Bus*

This step-by-step guide shows how MCPSS retrofitted and transformed a school bus into the “Superfood Express” for summer meals.

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Mobile_Feeding_Buses.pdf

- *Mobile Feeding Presented by Mobile County Public Schools*

MCPSS created a handbook on mobile feeding outlining everything from acquiring a bus to creating kid friendly menus. This is a great resource for sponsors considering this model!

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Mobile_Feeding_Manual.pdf

USDA Blog Spotlights

- *Innovative Approach to Feeding At-Risk Children during Summer Shines in Florida*

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/05/15/innovative-approach-to-feeding-at-risk-children-during-summer-shines-in-florida/>

- *Summer Food Service Program Meals with a Healthy Summer Twist*

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/08/13/summer-food-service-program-meals-with-a-healthy-southern-twist/>



Summer Meals Toolkit

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Promising Practices

See it in action! The following examples highlight model programs:

- **Hay County, Texas**

If a child can't come to the meal, the meal will come to the child

<http://haysfoodbank.org/if-a-child-cant-come-to-the-meal-the-meal-will-come-to-the-child/#sthash.WS3iDsDx.dpuf>

- **San Marcos, Texas**

Purple Bus Rolls with Mobile Meals for Families

<http://www.smcisd.net/news.cfm?story=1583>

- **New Haven, Connecticut**

Food Trucks Provide Free Summer Meals For Hungry Kids

<http://mobile-cuisine.com/off-the-wire/food-trucks-provide-free-summer-meals-for-hungry-kids/>

- **Englewood, Colorado**

Mobile meals feed Englewood kids over the summer

<http://yourhub.denverpost.com/mobile-meals-feed-englewood-kids-over-the-summer/>

- **Pittsboro, North Carolina**

Teaming Up to Feed Kids This Summer

<http://philnc.org/2013/07/01/teaming-up-to-feed-kids-in-summer/>

- **Anne Arundel County, Maryland**

Best Practices Throughout The State

http://www.mdhungersolutions.org/fedfoodprogs/summer_best_practices.shtm





Partner Resources

Share Our Strength

Mobile Meals Playbook

The Playbook offers best practices for determining if mobile is right for you, making plans for a new mobile program, and/ adopting better practices to improve your existing programs. This tool is designed for sponsors already familiar with or operating the Summer Food Service Program or the Seamless Summer Option.

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/mobile-meals-playbook>

Summer Meals Toolkit and Guides for Collaborative Meetings

These useful resource are designed to help facilitate meetings of organizations and government entities working together to increase access to summer meals.

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/no-kid-hungry-summer-collaborative-planning-toolkit>

For Additional Information

Review these ideas and adopt the strategies that seem reasonable to you and compatible with your Program. Sponsors and the general public should contact the appropriate State agency for additional guidance. State agencies should contact their FNS Regional Office for additional guidance.

List of FNS Regional Offices: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices>

List of State Agencies: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm>

USDA and its recipient institutions share responsibility for compliance and oversight to ensure good stewardship of Federal funds.



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